

**Morehead State University  
Special Collections & Archives  
Manuscript Accession Form**

**Collection Title:** James Still Manuscript Collection

**Manuscript Series Number:** MS079-1978

**Date Received:** 1978-2001

**Processed by:** Arwen Sergeant and Dieter C. Ullrich

**Cataloged by:** Arwen Sergeant and Dieter C. Ullrich

**Date Listed:** June 25, 2024

**Date Span:** 1923-2001

**Size of Collection:** 48.0 linear feet.

**Number of Boxes:** 39 letter size document cases, 3 legal size document cases, 4 letter half size document cases, 1 legal half size document, 10 record center boxes, 1 cassette box, 5 index card cases, and 13 various sized ledger boxes.

**Type of Material:** Correspondence, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, journals, magazines, monographs, photographs, postcards, audio and videocassettes, art, artifacts, and ephemera.

**Condition of Material:** Good.

**Arrangement:** Organized in ten series: I. Correspondence. II. Manuscripts. III. Publications. IV. Interviews and Notes. V. World War II Print Items. VI. Academic Items. VII. Photographs. VIII. Audio and Video Cassettes. IX. Artifacts and Memorabilia. X. Framed Items, Plaques & Index Cards; Alphabetical and chronological arrangement.

**Biographical / Historical Information:** James Still was an American Poet, novelist, and folklorist born in LaFayette, Alabama on July 16, 1906. As a child he worked on the family farm and attended local public schools. After graduating high school, he attended Lincoln Memorial University where he received a bachelor's degree in 1929, a master's degree in 1930 from Vanderbilt University, and a Library Science degree from the University of Illinois in 1931. Prior to his successful career as a writer, he was employed with the Civil Service Corps, a Bible salesman, and a volunteer librarian at the Hindman Settlement School. His book *River of Earth* was published in 1940 and he was awarded the Southern Author's Award in 1941. During the Second World War, he served in the United States Army in Ghana and Egypt. After the war, he returned to writing and published numerous stories and poems in popular literary journals and magazines along with textbooks and anthologies. Still died on April 28, 2001, at the age of 94, and is buried on the campus of the Hindman Settlement School.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of the correspondence, manuscripts, published materials, literary reviews, photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts created or acquired by Kentucky author and poet James Still from 1923 until his death in 2001. The collection includes interviews with Still, audio and video cassettes of events and trips, newspaper issues and clippings, World War II print items, academic degrees (some honorary) and certificates, theses and dissertations, yearbooks, scrapbooks, artwork, framed items, plaques, and index cards cataloging the contents of the collection.

**Subject Headings / Descriptors:**

Still, James, 1906-2001.

Authors, American – Kentucky – 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Poets, American – Kentucky – 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Authors, American – Kentucky.

American literature – Kentucky.

Appalachian literature.

Appalachian – Region – Fiction.

Kentucky – In Literature.

Kentucky – Fiction.

Folklore – United States – Kentucky.

**Notes:** The collection was partially processed in the late 1980s and early 1990s but was difficult to use from a researcher's standpoint. Reprocessing began in the fall of 2023 and completed in the summer of 2024.